

Message Text

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EXDIS FOR AMBASSADOR YOUNG FROM UNA

FOLLOWING REPEAT SECTO 13091 SENT ACTION DAMASCUS INFO
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QUOTE S E C R E T SECTO 13091

EXDIS

FOR AMBASSADOR FROM SECRETARY

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (CARTER, JIMMY)

SUBJ: PRESIDENT'S TALKS IN RIYADH AND ASWAN

1. FOLLOWING IS FOR YOUR USE IN BRIEFING PRESIDENT
ASSAD ON PRESIDENT CARTER'S VISITS TO RIYADH AND ASWAN.

2. PRESIDENT CARTER HAS ASKED YOU TO INFORM PRESIDENT
ASSAD ABOUT HIS TALKS WITH THE SAUDI LEADERS IN
RIYADH JANUARY 3 AND WITH PRESIDENT SADAT IN ASWAN
JANUARY 4. THESE TALKS WERE DEVOTED PRIMARILY TO
REVIEWING HOW THEY AND WE ENVISAGE THE COURSE OF THE
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PAGE 02 STATE 003253

MIDDLE EAST PEACE NEGOTIATIONS IN THE PERIOD AHEAD,
WITH PARTICULAR EMPHASIS ON THE NEGOTIATIONS WHICH
WILL RESUME AT FOREIGN MINISTER LEVEL IN JERUSALEM
IN MID-JANUARY. THE SAUDI LEADERS AND PRESIDENT
SADAT STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF CONCENTRATING EFFORTS
ON FINDING A FRAMEWORK FOR SOLUTION OF THE PALESTINIAN
PROBLEM BASED ON THE PRINCIPLE OF SELF-DETERMINATION.

THEY MADE CLEAR THAT THEY DO NOT CONSIDER THE PROPOSALS ADVANCED BY PRIME MINISTER BEGIN FOR SELF RULE IN THE WEST BANK AND GAZA TO BE AN ACCEPTABLE ANSWER TO THE PROBLEM. THEY ALSO MADE CLEAR THAT THE OBJECTIVE OF NEGOTIATIONS MUST BE FULL PEACE IN THE REGION WHICH WILL RESOLVE THE TERRITORIAL ISSUE ON ALL FRONTS BASED ON ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FROM THE TERRITORIES OCCUPIED IN 1967. KING HUSSEIN EXPRESSED SUBSTANTIALLY THE SAME VIEWS WHEN THE PRESIDENT MET WITH HIM IN TEHRAN ON JANUARY 1, AS DID THE SHAH OF IRAN.

2. PRESIDENT CARTER MADE CLEAR IN ALL HIS TALKS THAT WE AGREE A COMPREHENSIVE PEACE REQUIRES COMPREHENSIVE PARTICIPATION IN THE NEGOTIATIONS, AND THAT THIS IS OUR OBJECTIVE ALSO. HE REAFFIRMED OUR POSITIONS ON THE ELEMENTS OF PEACE AND WITHDRAWAL, WITH WHICH PRESIDENT ASSAD IS ALREADY FAMILIAR. HE ALSO SAID -- AND SUBSEQUENTLY REITERATED PUBLICLY IN ASWAN -- THAT A PEACE SETTLEMENT REQUIRES A SOLUTION OF THE PALESTINIAN PROBLEM IN ALL ITS ASPECTS AND THAT THE PALESTINIANS MUST PARTICIPATE IN DETERMINING THEIR OWN FUTURE. HE ALSO REITERATED THAT WE HAVE NOT ENDORSED MR. BEGIN'S PROPOSALS ALTHOUGH WE DO SEE SOME ELEMENTS IN THOSE PROPOSALS THAT COULD BE BUILT UPON IN WORKING OUT TRANSITIONAL ARRANGEMENTS LEADING
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 STATE 003253

TO A FINAL SETTLEMENT FOR THE WEST BANK AND GAZA, AND FOR THE PALESTINIAN PROBLEM IN ITS BROADER ASPECTS.

3. THE PRESIDENT CONFIRMED THAT WE VIEW THE CAIRO PREPARATORY CONFERENCE AND ITS TWO MINISTERIAL LEVEL COMMITTEES AS HAVING THE POTENTIAL TO LEAD TO BROADENED NEGOTIATIONS AND A COMPREHENSIVE PEACE SETTLEMENT. THOSE NEGOTIATIONS ARE THE ONLY PRESENTLY ACTIVE NEGOTIATING FORUM AND, UNTIL CIRCUMSTANCES EVOLVE SO AS TO MAKE POSSIBLE THE RECONVENING OF THE GENEVA CONFERENCE, WE WILL GIVE THE CAIRO CONFERENCE OUR FULL SUPPORT AND PLAY AN ACTIVE ROLE IN THE MEETINGS OF ITS POLITICAL COMMITTEE. TO THAT END, THE PRESIDENT HAS ASKED SECRETARY VANCE TO PARTICIPATE AT THE OPENING SESSIONS OF THAT COMMITTEE, AND WE WILL BE REPRESENTED THERE BY A UNITED STATES DELEGATION ON A CONTINUING BASIS. WE RECOGNIZE THAT PRESIDENT ASSAD DOES NOT SHARE OUR ASSESSMENT OF THE IMPORTANCE AND POTENTIAL OF THE CAIRO CONFERENCE FORUM. WE HOPE, HOWEVER, THAT HE WILL CONTINUE TO KEEP AN OPEN MIND AND NOT EXCLUDE SYRIA FROM EVENTUAL PARTICIPATION IN THE NEGOTIATING PROCESS WHICH WE

THINK CAN FLOW FROM IT SINCE IN OUR VIEW IT REPRESENTS
A PROCESS THAT WILL LEAD TO RESULTS -- HOPEFULLY
RESULTS FROM WHICH ALL PARTIES TO THE CONFLICT WILL
BENEFIT.

4. IN CONVEYING THE FOREGOING INFORMATION AND VIEWS,
THE PRESIDENT SENDS TO PRESIDENT ASSAD HIS BEST WISHES
AND PERSONAL REGARDS.
VANCE UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

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